



The Lead Post

Office of Lead Hazard Control * 451 7th Street, S.W. * Room B-133 * Washington, DC 20410

Moving Towards a Lead-Safe Environment for America's Children

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF LEAD-SAFE CAMBRIDGE HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

*by Lisa Motter, Lead-Safe Cambridge
Outreach Coordinator*

To understand the impact of a HUD lead abatement program, you must look beyond any one tenant, property owner, or child served by that program. Every day we help people in our community learn more about lead. Our largest impact comes from all the phone calls, walk-ins, referrals, outreach activities, home visits, and interactions with property owners and contractors. All of these things combined create our value to the community.

To pick one story would be to show just one small piece of how we help. So, we have chosen to focus on a day in the life of our program...

Wednesday, January 22, 1997

It is a cold winter morning. A blanket of frost covers the cars lining the brick sidewalks in front of the predominantly 19th and early 20th century residential neighborhoods.

Slowly the city shows signs of life. This is a famous city, known mostly for its world-class universities - Harvard and MIT; but it is more than just a "University Town."

It is also a city with congestion, older housing stock, recently expired rent control, and all the challenges of a diverse population.

It is a good city, a popular city, and it is a city that tries hard to meet the demands of its citizens while preserving the delicate balance of history and the promise of the future. This city is Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The day begins much like any other. The "Open" sign on the Lead-Safe Cambridge (LSC) door is turned around and staff members arrive, red-faced from the brisk morning air. The phone begins to ring almost immediately.

Pregnant Mother's Rights

The first call this morning is from a tenant with questions about a tenant notification form she signed when she moved in to her apartment. She is pregnant and concerned about lead paint in her home.

See Community, page 12

From the Director's Chair



I have increasingly realized the importance of staying focused on one simple principle: The work we do touches thousands of lives. All of us--whether we work in the community, parents' groups, housing agencies, pri-

ate business, local, state or federal government agencies, research institutions, advocacy groups, or public health--must look beyond the "daily-ness" of our existence and recognize the impact we have on children and their families.

I remember one of the first cases of lead poisoning I investigated many years ago in Atlanta. The father was in the midst of a major rehab effort on the house he and his wife had just invested their savings in. There was lead paint and dust everywhere.

Their 18-month old daughter visited her grandmother in Boston for a holiday and came down with the flu. The physician happened to check the blood lead level, found that it was over 60 ug/dL, called a physician in charge of the Georgia Poison Control Center, who then called me.

The father also had elevated blood lead levels. In those days, there was no HUD Lead Paint Grant program, and we had to beg and borrow respirators and HEPA vacuums and other supplies to get the situation under control. Happily, when both the father and daughter were retested, their blood lead levels were greatly reduced.

As I read the stories about the programs in Cambridge and Vermont in this issue, I was struck by how, despite all our difficulties, we are succeeding in controlling a major childhood disease, keeping low-income housing affordable and safe, and building communities where our children can flourish and make us proud of the future only they can make.

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HUD FY97 Lead-Based Paint Grantees and Awards

Jefferson County, AL - \$1,014,778
 Dubuque, IA - \$3,690,619
 Shreveport, LA - \$1,142,300
 Cambridge, MA - \$2,177,327
 Wayne County, MI - \$4,994,424
 Minneapolis, MN - \$4,994,424
 Minnesota - \$1,475,389
 Kansas City, MO - \$4,994,424
 Missouri - \$1,997,894
 Chautauqua County, NY - \$2,725,334
 New York City - \$1,596,274
 Charlotte, NC - \$4,986,800
 Mahoning County, OH - \$4,295,668
 Springfield, OH - \$2,966,805
 Borough of Palmerton, PA - \$633,288
 Philadelphia, PA - \$1,573,200
 Vermont - \$1,804,610
 Richmond, VA - \$1,368,818
 Milwaukee, WI - \$4,994,424
 Wisconsin - \$1,573,200

HUD Awards \$55 Million To
 Reduce Lead Hazards In
 Privately-Owned Low-Income
 Housing

Secretary Henry G. Cisneros of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD) announced the award of \$51 million to 17 grantees in 15 states to use towards the reduction of lead-based paint hazards in low-income, privately-owned housing units. In addition, a total of \$4 million in grant funds was awarded to Missouri, Richmond, VA., and the Borough of Palmerton, PA., to control lead-based paint hazards in housing units on Superfund sites. The awards are part of the Department's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program.

HUD's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program works to build an infrastructure which will last well beyond the life of the grant. Besides supporting hazard control work, funds are used to develop education and outreach programs, as well as job opportunities for community residents. The grant provides incentives for state and local governments to work with community-based service providers, environmental advocates, landlords, and homeowners to rid private, low-income housing of lead hazards. And most importantly, the grant program stimulates the formation of a sound system of laws, regulations and procedures for ensuring that children will be protected from lead poisoning.

Communities compete for the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grants by submitting innovative proposals that address childhood lead poisoning in older, low-income neighborhoods, where lead-based paint is most prevalent.

HUD's grant program is only one component of a larger strategy to help state and local governments develop effective programs of lead-based paint hazard control. It was established by Title X of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act, part of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992.

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) operates the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program established by Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, also known as the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act. The primary purpose of the lead program is to reduce the exposure of young children to lead-based paint hazards in their homes.

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board's (VHCB) Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program has completed lead-based paint hazard reduction activities in 300 units of housing to date, with another 78 units underway. An additional 64 units have had testing, risk assessments and specifications completed ; hazard reduction work will begin later this winter or early spring.

The program in its final year was funded under a \$3 million Round II grant received in 1994 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The program focuses on providing assistance to three categories of housing units:

- Nonprofit-owner, perpetually affordable rental housing units that are undergoing substantial rehabilitation funded in part by VHCB administered state and Federal funds
- Private investor-owned rental housing units
- Low-income homeowner occupied properties



Priority is given to units occupied by young children, and the highest priority goes to children with elevated blood lead levels. Units located in 39 villages, towns and cities throughout Vermont have been enrolled in the program.

Technical assistance is provided at no cost to eligible owners in the form of inspections, XRF, paint chip and soil testing, lab analysis, risk assessments, specification development, assistance with contractor bidding and selection, construction oversight and clearance testing. Program participants receive a combination of grants and 0% deferred loans for the hazard reduction work totaling up to \$6,000 for housing units occupied by young children, and up to \$3,000 for units without children.

Background

Vermont has a relatively high percentage of pre-1940 housing stock that is known to contain high levels of lead. Almost 40% of the total occupied housing units were built prior to 1940. In rental housing, over half of the units were constructed prior to 1940. It is estimated that 61% of the total occupied units of housing stock is in poor condition, particularly those units rented to low-income households. Data from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) blood screenings indicate 12 to 15% of children under age six tested for lead have blood lead levels greater than or equal to 10 micrograms per deciliter. This exceeds the national average of nine percent.

See Grantee, page 10

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National Lead Service Providers' Listing System Now Available

The National Lead Service Providers' Listing, the "Lead Listing," was recently developed to provide parents, landlords, real estate professionals, and other consumers with an effective means of identifying and locating trained lead service providers. By accessing the Lead Listing web site on the Internet World Wide Web, the public can find organizations and/or individuals who provide lead-based paint (lbp) inspections, risk assessments, hazard control, and other related services.

Lead professionals who are interested in being placed on the Lead Listing must submit information to demonstrate that training was completed and certify that the information is correct. For those states with operational lead certification and accreditation programs, lead professionals must hold a current lead certification in those states. For more information on how to be included in the Lead Listing please call (703) 312-7837.



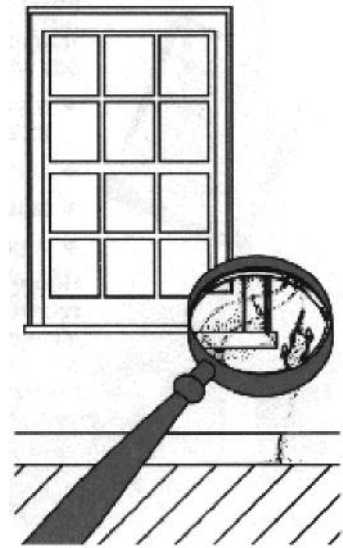
The following consumer resources are also available via the Lead Listing home page:

- Consumers are able to locate trained lead service providers by state by clicking on a map of the United States or can choose to download a printable file of service providers for a state or for all states.
- A Question and Answer Guide is posted on the home page to include an overview of lead listing "rules."
- A Consumer Reference Guide containing definitions of lead-related terms, a comparison of a lead inspection and a lead risk assessment, a guide on questions to ask when purchasing services from a lead service provider and a guide on state lead programs are posted.
- Federal lead regulations and the EPA/CPSC/HUD lead notification pamphlet are also posted.

The Internet address is **<http://www.leadlisting.org>** The Lead Listing information is also available by dialing toll free **1-888-LEAD-LIST**.

Lead Disclosure Rule Takes Effect for Property Owners of One to Four Dwelling Units

The Lead Disclosure Rule which was jointly published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as required by the Lead-Based Paint Reduction Act of 1992, took effect on December 6, 1996, for property owners of one to four dwelling units. The rule went into effect on September 6, 1996, for owners of five or more dwelling units.



The full implementation of the rule is an important step forward in two areas of critical concern -- protecting public health from serious threats and arming the public with the information they need to protect themselves.

Approximately 1 million American children have unsafe blood lead levels, making lead poisoning the number one environmental health hazard for children under the age of six. Most of those children are poisoned by lead contaminated dust and soil that derives from lead in old paint and the residue of fallout from leaded gasoline combustion.

Lead-based paint was banned in 1978, but approximately 64 million dwellings in the United States still have some lead-based paint. However, common sense procedures used when performing routine maintenance or home renovations can significantly reduce the risk of lead poisoning.

SPECIFICALLY, the HUD/EPA Rule states:

1. Sellers and landlords must disclose any known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in homes. They also are required to give buyers or tenants any reports that are available from tests that may have been performed before sale or lease.
2. Sellers and landlords must give buyers and renters a pamphlet about how to protect families from lead in homes. The pamphlet, entitled, "Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home," was developed by EPA, HUD, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and is available in both English and Spanish. States may request EPA approval of an alternate pamphlet.
3. Home buyers receive a 10-day opportunity to conduct a lead-based paint inspection or risk assessment at their own expense if desired. The number of days can be changed by mutual consent.
4. Sales contracts and leasing agreements must include a lead warning statement and provisions ensuring that disclosure and notification actually take place. Some states already have lead paint disclosure provisions in sale and lease contracts. For those states that do not, the agencies have developed a sample format.
5. Sellers, landlords and real estate agents all share responsibility for ensuring compliance with this rule.

Oscar The Grouch Reaches Kids With Lead Paint Message

Reprint from the Community Ink

Oscar the Grouch helped with the kickoff of the City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's Lead Awareness Program. The kickoff included a series of activities to educate children and parents on lead paint hazards and how to prevent lead poisoning.

As part of the kickoff, the City hosted a get-together for children from Pride of the Neighborhood Academies at City Government Center. The 75 children in attendance learned some simple ways to prevent lead poisoning through the Sesame Street Lead-Away video produced by the Children's Television Workshop and the National Safety Council.



In conjunction with the lead awareness program, the Bureau of Housing held two additional lead education programs. Both Elmo and Oscar the Grouch stressed the importance of lead poisoning prevention while the children enjoyed games, live music and refreshments.

Lead Tips Did You Know...



People can get more lead in their body if they:

Put their hands or other objects covered with lead dust in their mouths.

Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead.

Breathe in lead dust (especially during renovations that disturb painted surfaces).

Lead is even more dangerous to children than adults because:

Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. Those objects can have lead dust on them.

Children's growing bodies absorb more lead.

Children's developing brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.

The Lead Post needs stories in the areas of lead hazard control and poisoning prevention. Please mail stories on a diskette with any accompanying photos to Dolline Hatchett, Community Outreach Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., B-133, Washington, DC 20410. Photos will not be returned. Deadline for story submissions:

Spring Issue: april 30, 1997

NEW LEAD POISONING CASE MANAGEMENT TOOL AVAILABLE

Bright Futures: An Action Guide for Families of Lead Poisoned Children is now available from the California Department of Health Services, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch. *Bright Futures* is an innovative visual communication tool designed to help health professionals address the questions and concerns of parents whose children are lead poisoned.

Each *Bright Futures* set includes 19 colorful pictures that illustrate key concepts about lead poisoning in three topic areas, designated by a color border at the top of the card: The Nature of Lead Poisoning; How Children Become Poisoned; Action Parents Can Take To Help Their Child Get Well. Each card has attractive pictures on the front with a simple sentence, phrase, or action in English and Spanish. On the back, key points in English and Spanish prompt the health professional to discuss important topics about lead poisoning.

Bright Futures encourages parental action and is also appropriate for reaching low literacy and Spanish speaking audiences. The materials are durable, portable and come with their own canvas tote bag.

Prompted by requests from public health nurses for a case management tool to help communicate difficult lead poisoning concepts, *Bright Futures* was developed for health professionals and parents. Extensive field testing and focus groups with public health nurses and parents helped shape the messages and final product.

Bright Futures is available for \$38 per set, with a minimum order of three sets. Please contact Kathryn Fricke, Health Educator, at (510) 450-2418 for ordering information.

Lead Star

Matt Ammon

Matt Ammon is a Government Technical Representative for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Lead Hazard Control, in Washington, D.C. He manages and provides direction for 15 grantees that have received awards under the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program to use towards the reduction of lead-based paint hazards in low-income and privately-owned housing units.



Matt used his previous experience as a program manager to develop data collection systems and to develop the Office of Lead Hazard Control, the Lead Listing, and HUD Single Family/FHA Internet web sites. The Lead Listing web site was recently nominated by the Lotus Development Corp. for the Beacon Award, an industry award which recognizes the use and application of innovative technology (see page 5 for article on the Lead Listing).

When asked about his accomplishments he responded, "We are only limited by our perceptions of what we cannot do. Hopefully, I can demonstrate to people that the use of technology can bridge the gap between idea and accomplishment."

Matt Ammon resides in Annapolis, Maryland with his wife and two Siamese cats.

Lead Resources Residential Lead Hazard Control Reference Library CD-ROM

The Lead Office has recently compiled information to be included on a CD-ROM. The CD-ROM includes the HUD Guidelines, the EPA Lead Information Pamphlet, Putting the Pieces Together: Controlling Lead Hazards in the Nation's Housing, the EPA/HUD Lead Disclosure Rule with both Guidances, EPA Lead Certification and Accreditation Regulations, and Lead scientific research including the Report on the National Survey of Lead-Based Paint in Housing and Does Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Work? The CD-ROM will be available from HUD USER (800-245-2691) in April. For more information, please call 202-755-1785, ext.158.

Grantee,

continued from page 4

Legislation and Poisoning Prevention

The Vermont Legislature has also recognized the importance of preventing childhood lead poisoning by passing three major legislative initiatives over the past four years. Most recent

legislation requires owners of residential rental properties built before 1978 and child care facilities to complete Essential Maintenance Practices (EMPs) on these structures. This includes the installation of window well liners, minor paint stabilization and cleaning with a HEPA vacuum annually and at tenant turnover. Owners must attend a Department of Health approved course before they can complete EMPs. Once this is done, however, the owner is able to secure lead liability coverage from their property insurer and is provided some protection from future civil action.



A before and after shot (below) of a home renovated as part of the lead hazard reduction and CDBG rehabilitation program.

Pilot Program

As a result of Vermont's new EMP law, VHCB has undertaken a small pilot program in Burlington's Old North End Enterprise Zone. This is a collaborative effort with CLPPP, the City of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office and the Burlington Housing Authority. Approximately 30 units in this neighborhood will have EMPs completed. These units will be incorporated into the National Evaluation data. Follow-up testing should help to determine the effectiveness of the new law. The response to this pilot program has been overwhelming, with applications received from more than 300 apartments.

Working with Rehabilitation Programs

Vermont's EMP law and the recently enacted federal disclosure law have significantly increased the demand for VHCB's limited resources. Many units have had lead hazard reduction work completed in partnership with locally administered Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded



rehabilitation programs. VHCB's lead program provided all the technical services while the CDBG funds were used to cover the lead hazard reduction and rehabilitation work. Working collaboratively with these small rehabilitation programs has enabled VHCB to create additional lead safe units and spread program dollars further. VHCB has recently been awarded a second grant of \$1.8 million from HUD's

Round Four Grant Program. Continued funding of Vermont's Lead Program will enable us to build on the successful collaborative relationships and effective program implementation under our current program.

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Chapter 7

OF THE

HUD

Guidelines

The Office of Lead Hazard Control is updating its guidance on lead-based paint inspection procedures. At October's LeadTech conference, Office Director Dave Jacobs and Research Manager Warren Friedman identified four main topics being considered for revision, and heard comments on them and on dozens of other suggestions by over 150 attendees at their session. The major topics being reviewed in HUD Guidelines' Chapter 7 are:

- The use of chemical spot test kits for inspections,
- The number of rooms to be inspected in each house or apartment,
- The number of XRF readings to be taken for each testing combination in single family housing, and
- The number of housing units to be sampled in multifamily housing developments.

A draft discussion document has been evaluated by peer reviewers, whose comments are now being considered by HUD.

Calendar of Events

April 28-30, 1997

The National Lead-Safe Housing
Conference and Exposition

Washington, DC

Contact: Kim Levi (301)924-0804

May 3, 1997

Lead Poisoning in Jefferson County
Souther Organization Committee
Birmingham, AL

Contact: Lynn Battle (205) 252-2181

May 20-21, 1997

Look Out for Lead '97
EPA, State of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Contact: Rick Brooks (608) 265-4079

June 10-11, 1997

Management of Environmental Health
Hazards: A Community Challenge

Pittsburgh, PA

EPA, States of West Virginia, Ohio and
Pennsylvania

Contact: Chuck Vukotich (412) 578-8064

June 25-27, 1997

Northwest Lead Conference
Oregon Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
Program

Contact: Chris Johnson (503) 248-5240

Community, continued.

"I signed a waiver form when I moved into my apartment. Does this mean that I don't have any rights?" Chantal Labossiere, the LSC Program Assistant tells her about the Massachusetts lead law and Federal requirements. After explaining her rights and giving her some lead safety information over the phone, Chantal sends her a brochure on the lead law and a brochure about the Lead-Safe program for the tenant to give to her property owner. The tenant thanks Chantal and is relieved to know that her child still has a right to grow up in a lead-safe environment.

Coordination with Non-Profits

Other LSC staff-members begin their day, too. Gerry Carrington, the Project Manager, will spend his morning out of the office. He has arranged a walk-through for contractors wishing to bid on a lead hazard control job. With spec in-hand, Gerry and five contractors take a walk through two units in a multifamily house. The apartments are in pretty bad shape. Paint is peeling off many of the interior walls. One room has a huge hole in the ceiling. The outside isn't much better; the window sills and casings will definitely need work. This property is one of the many projects Lead-Safe Cambridge is working on with Just-A-Start, a local non-profit that provides funding and technical assistance for rehabilitation work. The owners of this property would never have been able to afford to renovate, let alone delead, this multifamily house without the coordinated assistance of Just-A-Start and Lead-Safe Cambridge.

Public Education: The Puppet Show

I am the Outreach Coordinator for the program (Lisa Motter) and I will also be out of the office this morning. I am visiting one of the 15 neighborhood elementary schools, making presentations to all of the kindergarten and first grade classes. Lugging a puppet theater and other supplies, I will spend 45 minutes with each class.

The first session consists of two kindergarten classes. I begin with a question: "Does anybody know what lead is?" Lots of eager hands shoot up, but I know the majority answer will be "something they put in pencils." After telling them about graphite, I explain how lead is a metal and talk briefly about lead in paint and how it turns into lead dust. Then the real fun begins.

Puppet show stars Scrubby Bear and Eddie Eat Right tell the kids how to avoid lead paint hazards and the importance of good nutrition. Then, they let the kids join in during the pretend hand-washing lesson. But the fun doesn't end there. The Sesame Street Lead Away video reinforces the information presented with songs and lessons in lead safety. After discussion, a verbal quiz, and a question and answer session, parent information sheets are distributed and it is off to another classroom. By the end of the morning, I have performed 5 puppet shows and am starting to get a bit hoarse...

Home Visit

Back at the office, Alicia Morris, the Nurse Manager, and Luisa Oliveira, the Relocation Manager, are leaving for a home visit. A sudden flurry of new families in the program means they will be making several visits over the next few weeks to explain the deleading work as well as to try to enroll the children in the HUD blood lead study.

Luisa works with each family to devise a relocation plan that works for everyone. LSC maintains two furnished, deleaded relocation apartments that are close to public transportation, shopping, and large enough to accommodate big families. The newly enrolled families will be given the option to relocate to one of the apartments or to stay with family or friends during the deleading process. Luisa demonstrates the necessary preparation work the family will need to do before the deleading begins and provides a checklist of things to bring with them during their relocation. Continued, next page

Community, continued.

Alicia and Luisa arrive a few minutes early for today's home visit. This family is Portuguese and speaks very little English so Luisa will be translating during the visit. A young mother answers the door and invites them in. Her 4 year old daughter hides shyly behind her mother's legs. They are invited to sit around the kitchen table.

Alicia asks whether or not the child has had a recent blood lead test. It is determined that she had one about a month ago. The mother gets up to get the paperwork when Alicia asks about their primary care physician. It turns out their doctor is not part of the Cambridge Hospital, so Alicia will need permission to get blood test results if they participate in the HUD study. The study is examining the effectiveness of the program by looking at changes in blood lead levels. Luisa explains the study and asks if they are interested. The mother decides to sign the authorization form.

Alicia then talks to the family about activities that increase exposure to lead. Information about good nutrition, cleaning with a Tri-Sodium Phosphate (TSP) solution, a "Sneaky Poison" brochure developed by LSC for all literacy levels, and a brochure from the EPA entitled "Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home" are given to the family. The TSP and the LSC brochures are translated into the three most prevalent languages in Cambridge—Portuguese, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

This family will be using one of the LSC relocation units so they are also given information about the apartment and other general information they will need such as a map and directions to the local supermarket.



During a home visit, Alicia Morris and Luisa Oliveira give a child a bandage after his blood test.

Coordinating with Section 8

Meanwhile, Chantal is busy back at the office assisting a property owner interested in signing up with the LSC program. He wants to rent one of his units to a family with a Section 8 certificate and realizes that the law requires that the unit be delead since the family has a child under 6. Not understanding how to begin that process, he came to Lead-Safe for some answers. Chantal calls the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) and lets them know this property owner is joining our program and arranges to coordinate the completion of paperwork necessary for the Section 8 certificate. Cooperation between LSC and other City departments, like the CHA, helps the program work efficiently.

Meeting with a Property Owner

Meanwhile, Peggy Hegarty the LSC Program Manager, is preparing to meet with another property owner for a "closing," the final stage of paperwork prior to the beginning of deleading work. In this meeting, Peggy will explain the financial obligations of the program in detail and answer any last minute questions the property owners may have. These property owners, an older couple who occupy the lower level of their three-family home, have lived in Cambridge for 45 years. Continued, next page

Community, continued.

Their granddaughter and her husband live on the second floor and are expecting a child in four months, their first great-grandchild. Without the assistance of Lead-Safe Cambridge, they tell Peggy, they weren't sure they could afford to do the right thing for their great-grandchild.

The rest of the afternoon, Luisa and Ann Cooper-Stroobant, the LSC

Landscape Planner working on the Safer Soil project, are working out a schedule to test soil for lead. They are also in the early planning stages of a Safer Soil Workshop they will conduct in the Spring to teach the residents of the City about landscaping methods to make yards safer for playing and gardening.

Peggy is revising the budget. The Round 4 HUD grant that Lead-Safe Cambridge recently received will allow the program to continue until 2000. Peggy has been working hard to make necessary program changes fit with the new budget. It is challenging but rewarding. Peggy has been with the program since the beginning and is looking forward to continuing program efforts.



Five o'clock finally rolls around. It has been a busy day for everyone and tomorrow will be another full day. The computers are shut down, the phone calls wind down, and LSC staff members put on coats and hats, bracing for the cold January night. As Chantal, Luisa, Alicia, and myself leave the office we hear the tap, tap of computer keys in

Peggy's office. It will be another night of budget wrestling for her. We poke our heads in to wish her a pleasant evening.

Walking down the stairs and out into the brisk night air, we reminisce about the day's events. I think to myself how much I enjoy this work and helping the people that we serve. I am reminded of one child, in particular, from earlier in the day. "Thank you for the puppet show, Lisa," she said, while giving me a big hug. I smile to myself as I wave goodbye to the others. It's not everyday you get thanked just for doing your job. But then again, it's not everyday you get to feel like what you do makes a difference in the lives of other people.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410-0000

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